

Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-10 under 35 USC 102 based on Rosenberg patent 4,571,178 is respectfully requested for the following reasons. The operation of the dental appliance disclosed by Rosenberg is significantly different as compared to the operation of the force adjusting mechanism for an orthodontic appliance according to applicant's claimed invention. Rosenberg discloses a lock 17 on shaft 16 for compressing a spring 12. However, lock 17 is merely threaded on shaft 16; there is no unidirectional ratcheting movement of the lock along the shaft in sharp contrast to applicant's claimed invention. In particular, each of the independent claims 1, 6 and 9 of the instant application calls for a unidirectional ratchet movement of the lock along the shaft. The advantages of the unidirectional ratchet movement of the lock along the shaft are set forth, for example, on page 6, line 23 to page 7, line 2 of the instant application.

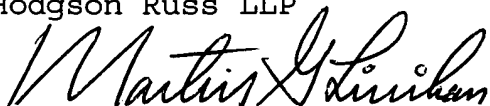
The significant structural and operational differences between applicant's claimed invention and the appliance disclosed by Rosenberg together with the important advantages arising from those differences provide both novel and unobvious distinctions. Accordingly, claims 1-10 are believed to patentably distinguish over Rosenberg within the meaning of 35 USC 102 and 35 USC 103.

Favorable action on this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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By

  
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